

**USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service** 

# **Indiana Crop & Weather Report**

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### **CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 29**

#### **AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY**

Wet field conditions and the Thanksgiving holiday slowed harvest progress during the week, according to the Indiana Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Harvest is nearing completion in some areas with only the wettest fields remaining. A few corn fields will not be harvested until the ground freezes hard enough to support equipment. Harvest activities occurring on damp soils have left rutted fields and compacted soils in need of deep tillage. Some elevators continue to restrict deliveries to allow time to dry the wet grain. Other activities during the week included anhydrous ammonia applications, fall tillage, cleaning and storing equipment, spreading manure and taking care of livestock.

#### FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 4.4 days suitable for field work during the week. Eighty-four percent of the corn crop has been harvested compared to 99 percent last year and 98 percent for the 5-year average. By area, 80 percent of the corn acreage has been harvested in the north, 84 percent in the central region and 93 percent in the south. Moisture content of harvested corn is averaging about 21 percent.

Ninety-nine percent of the **soybean** acreage has been **harvested** compared with 100 percent last year and 99 percent for the 5-year average. By area, 99 percent of the soybean acreage has been harvested in the north, 99 percent in the central region and 97 percent in the south. **Moisture** content of harvested soybeans is averaging about 13.5 percent.

Seventy-eight percent of the **winter wheat** acreage has **emerged** compared with 99 percent last year and 97 percent for the 5-year average. Forty-six percent of the winter wheat acreage is reported to be in good to excellent **condition**.

#### LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Livestock remain in mostly good condition with very little weather related stress. Hay is in good supply. Pastures and feedlots are very muddy across the state.

#### **CROP PROGRESS TABLE**

Crop	This		Last				
Стор	Week	Week	Year	Avg.			
	Percent						
Corn Harvested	84	73	99	98			
Soybeans Harvested	99	97	100	99			
Winter Wheat Emerged	78	66	99	97			

#### **CROP CONDITION TABLE**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel- lent			
Percent								
Winter Wheat	2	4	48	41	5			

#### SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year					
	Percent							
Topsoil								
Very Short	0	0	NA					
Short	2	3	NA					
Adequate	71	72	NA					
Surplus	27	25	NA					
Subsoil								
Very Short	0	0	NA					
Short	4	4	NA					
Adequate	78	78	NA					
Surplus	18	18	NA					
Days Suitable	4.4	3.6	NA					

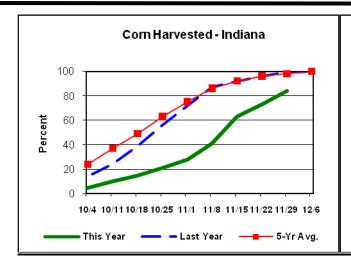
#### CONTACT INFORMATION

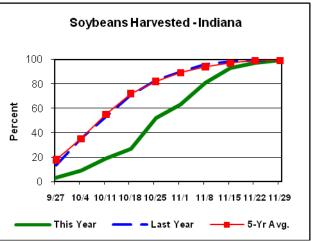
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http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\_by\_State/Indiana/

# **Crop Progress**





#### Other Agricultural Comments And News

### White Mold, Ear Rots Plague Crops in 2009, Combatable in 2010

Indiana corn and soybean farmers were no strangers to white mold and ear rots during the 2009 growing season; but according to one Purdue University expert, there are measures growers can take to reduce the chances of a repeat in 2010.

"This year, with corn, the big story was ear rot at the end of the season," said Kiersten Wise, Purdue Extension plant pathologist. "The most prevalent were Gibberella, Diplodia and Fusarium ear rots. Some of these ear rots cause major issues with grain quality because the fungi that cause them produce mycotoxins, or compounds toxic to livestock.

"In soybeans, the biggest issue was white mold, which was a problem during the growing season. This year it caused significant yield losses in certain areas of Indiana."

Because the fungi that cause ear rots and white mold can survive on crop residue or in the soil from year to year, Wise said now is the time to start considering prevention methods for the 2010-growing season.

"The number one thing growers can do to prevent ear rots or white mold is to select either a hybrid or a variety with some level of resistance to the disease," she said. "Growers will want to take note of the disease problems they had this year and which hybrids or varieties they used, and maybe select a different hybrid with disease resistance to go into the field next time.

"In areas where white mold was a severe problem, soybean growers may consider using wider row spacing, such as 30-inch rows. Avoiding high plant populations and planting at recommended seeding rates also could help reduce the impact of white mold. The goal is to increase airflow and reduce high humidity within the canopy, which favors disease development."

For corn growers looking for additional methods beyond hybrid selection, Wise suggested crop rotation and tillage practices.

"Growers trying to manage ear rots in corn should rotate out of corn and break up residue with tillage if possible," she said. "The fungi that cause ear rots survive in residue, and practices that encourage residue decomposition will reduce the risk of ear rots in the next corn crop."

In addition to ear rots and white mold, many Indiana corn growers also experienced issues with gray leaf spot and northern corn leaf blight, and soybean producers again saw quite a bit of sudden death syndrome (SDS).

"Our best tactic to manage any disease would be choosing a resistant or more tolerant hybrid or variety," Wise said. "With a few foliar diseases of corn and soybeans, there are other management options available such as fungicide application. However, the decision to apply a fungicide should be made during the growing season."

When farmers make their seed selections for the coming season, Wise said they should consider the history of each field to decide which resistant hybrids might best suit their needs.

"Choose hybrids based on field history," she said. "If there are fields with a history of certain diseases, we recommend choosing hybrids or varieties with resistance to those diseases. Also, take into account production practices. If a grower is in a no-till or reduced tillage, continuous corn system, there is an increased risk of disease development, since many corn diseases survive from year to year in crop residue. We might recommend choosing a more defensive hybrid for those acres."

Written Tuesday, November 24, 2009 by Ag Answers, An Ohio State Extension and Purdue Extension Partnership.

(Additional Article on Back Page)

# **Weather Information Table**

## Week Ending Sunday November 29, 2009

	Past Week Weather Summary I			Data	Accumulation							
	_ I							April 1, 2009 thru				
	Air		l			Avg		November 2		9, 2009		
Station	<u>T</u>	'empe	ratu	ıre	Precip.		4in	Pred	cipitat:	ion	GDD Bas	e 50°F
					1		Soil					
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)							- 1					
Chalmers_5W	57	27	41	+4	0.59	3	- 1	29.77	+2.28	99	2693	-534
Francesville	57	27	41	+7	0.54	4		29.86	+1.80	90	2634	-306
Valparaiso_AP_I	57	25	41	+5	0.84	3		26.43	-4.10	91	2812	-139
Wanatah	58	27	40	+6	0.86	4	43	31.41	+2.31	103	2499	-295
Winamac	57	28	42	+7	0.58	3	- 1	25.79	-2.27	89	2714	-226
North Central(2)							- 1					
Plymouth	57	27	41	+5	0.67	3		28.03	-0.82	112	2642	-459
South_Bend	56	26	41	+5	0.75	3		30.38	+1.89	92	2811	-94
Young_America	57	27	42	+6	0.38	2	- 1	28.27	+0.67	68	2741	-297
Northeast (3)							- 1					
Fort_Wayne	57	27	43	+7	0.31	3	- 1	27.78	+2.70	93	2955	-99
Kendallville	61	29	43	+7	0.40	3		24.19	-2.01	107	2969	+94
West Central(4)							- 1					
Greencastle	57	25	41	+3	0.34	3		39.41	+7.82	101	2745	-728
Perrysville	60	29	44	+7	0.59	4	45		+11.35	97	3084	-129
Spencer_Ag	59	26	43	+5	0.22	3		42.27	+10.60	94	3073	-164
Terre_Haute_AFB	60	29	44	+5	0.16	2		28.39	-1.53	79	3362	-85
W_Lafayette_6NW	59	29	43	+7	0.50	3	47	33.76	+6.11	92	2912	-127
Central (5)							- 1					
Eagle_Creek_AP	59	28	44	+6	0.30	3	- 1	35.43	+7.52	91	3379	-30
Greenfield	57	26	42	+4	0.16	3	- 1		+10.55	96	2970	-302
Indianapolis_AP	59	29	45	+7	0.23	3	- 1		+10.87	88	3519	+110
Indianapolis_SE	57	29	42	+4	0.26	3			+12.91	92	2968	-436
Tipton_Ag	57	27	41	+6	0.29	3	48	33.60	+4.75	96	2784	-153
East Central(6)												
Farmland	57	24	41	+5	0.34	3	43		-1.41	89	2849	-14
New_Castle	56	23	41	+4	0.18	3	- 1	34.92	+5.50	90	2744	-193
Southwest (7)							- 1					
Evansville	65	28	46	+5	0.06	1		38.08	+9.23	83	4046	+52
Freelandville	62	31	45	+5	0.13	2			+17.09	88	3468	-100
Shoals_8S	62	26	43	+3	0.13	2			+12.45	85	3124	-338
Stendal	66	31	47	+7	0.05	1			+15.85	83	3941	+200
Vincennes_5NE	63	30	45	+6	0.27	4		45.08	+15.45	96	3620	+52
South Central(8)							- 1					
Leavenworth	63	28	45	+5	0.08	2	- 1		+16.39	116	3499	+60
Oolitic	60	26	43	+4	0.18	3	41		+8.82	101	3184	-101
Tell_City	66	29	48	+5	0.04	1		39.60	+7.02	79	3841	-41
Southeast (9)										_		
Brookville	59	25	42	+4	0.11	2		34.21	+4.66	86	3220	+116
Greensburg	57	28	43	+5	0.00	0			+11.12	88	3395	+205
Seymour	59	27	43	+4	0.03	1		44.46	+14.77	79	3102	-176

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DFN = Departure From Normal.
GDD = Growing Degree Days.
Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

For more weather information, visit www.awis.com or call 1-888-798-9955.

### **Tests Determine Mycotoxin Levels in Potentially Moldy Corn Crop**

The longer corn stands in the field, the greater the chances for ear molds and subsequent mycotoxin issues, but the only way to determine if grain is contaminated is to have it tested.

"The presence of fungi is an indication of potential mycotoxin problems, but that doesn't mean the grain is contaminated with toxins," said Pierce Paul, Ohio State Extension plant pathologist. "Even if the grain is contaminated, the only way to determine whether toxins are present at high levels is to test it."

According to the Ohio Agricultural Statistics Service, 58 percent of Ohio's corn has been harvested, down 29 percent from this time last year. The delays are due to cool, wet weather conditions, which have slowed drydown and kept growers out of the fields.

Paul said harvest delays are not impacting yields, with reports of 200-250 bushel-per-acre averages, but the problem lies with grain quality.

"Corn standing in the field creates problems and one of those problems is ear mold and ear rots, which can lead to grain contamination with mycotoxins," Paul said. "Not every fungus produces mycotoxins, but the one particular problem we have this year is associated with mycotoxins, and that's Gibberella ear rot."

With Gibberella ear rot, the fungus enters the ear tips and leaves a pinkish mold on the kernels and progresses down from the tip toward the base of the ear. Gibberella ear rot develops best when moderate temperatures and frequent rainfall occur during the three-week period after silk emergence. Gibberella ear rot fungus produces mycotoxins that are harmful to

animals. These include deoxynivalenol (DON, also known as vomitoxin), zearalenone and T-2 toxin.

Paul emphasized ear rot symptoms don't always appear on the outside of the husk.

"This is particularly true with late infections," he said. "To determine if you have an ear rot problem, walk fields in 50-100 locations, strip back the husks of about 50-100 plants and look for telltale symptoms. It's easier to tell if you have an ear rot problem by looking at corn in the field, rather than trying to eyeball the grain."

Whether farmers are harvesting the corn for grain, silage or ethanol, it's important to test the grain for ear mold.

"Silage won't reduce mycotoxin levels. Vomitoxin is heat stable and water soluble, so despite whatever process it goes through, it'll stay in the silage," Paul said. "Vomitoxin will also remain and even builds up in DDGs."

The amount of Gibberella ear rot being found throughout Ohio cornfields is an unusual situation, Paul said.

Paul recommended farmers not feed any grain with more than 5 parts per million vomitoxin to swine.

"Avoid feeding moldy grain to animals, period," said Paul. "But if such grain is used, it should not make up more than 20 percent of the diet fed to swine and 40 percent of the diet fed to other animals."

For a list of mycotoxin testing laboratories visit http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/ohiofieldcropdisease/wheat/mycotoxin%20text2.htm.

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